

## QUEER DOUKHOBORS A FANATIC SECT

Strange Customs and Weird  
Doings of Peculiar  
People.

To Attain Purity Canadian  
"Soul Wrestlers" Tor-  
ment Themselves.

Of the many strange sects which find followers in some portion or other of the globe, there is none more eccentric or more Spartan in self-discipline than the Doukhobors. It is a sect which responds to a call that brooks no cavilling, no hanging back. The people who voluntarily accept its obligations impose upon themselves a penance which is calculated to test the limit of their endurance. Humiliation of the flesh is part and parcel of their creed. To such extremes do they carry their fanatical beliefs that they are frequently to be seen marching through scorching heat or bitter cold with practically no clothing beyond a loin cloth to cover them.

The Doukhobors make sacrifices which surpass in severity those of the most rigid ascetics. They have been ordered by their leaders to sell their cattle. They have done so. Now their children are dying for want of sustenance. Last autumn they were ordered to sell their sheep, and they disposed of 15,000. They then sold their chickens. Now they are paupers. Their leaders have abolished time. Nearly \$5,000 worth of watches and clocks have been taken away from the people by their head men. Mirrors have been forbidden; to make sure, special agents have collected all the looking glasses. Tea, coffee, sugar, and pancakes are under the ban, and their food is now narrowed down to potatoes, carrots, onions, and turnips.

According to the statement of a correspondent who has studied their customs, 500 Doukhobors live in two houses. Every man and woman has a space allotted, which is just four feet wide. They have to get into their beds from the foot, so cramped are their quarters. All eat at big tables in the center. The young men sleep like sardines in the garret. And, under a new rule, no Doukhobor may own more than one shirt. So poor and indigestible is their food now that most of the Doukhobors are really ill and diseased. They let the law go as a dead letter, and births, deaths, and marriages go unrecorded.

They live in northwestern Canada, these strange fanatics. Only a little while ago they were Russians—Quakers in reality. Like some of the earlier English Quakers, they were forced by persecution to leave their country and move to North America. Their English prototypes went to Pennsylvania more than two centuries ago; the Russians went to Canada in 1888. They settled near Lake Winnipeg, and there they are now, where 20,000 acres are reserved for the colonization. As dissenters from the orthodox church of Russia, they had to undergo some terrible sufferings for their faith. They thought that absolute freedom would be theirs in Canada, but even today they are generally misunderstood, unappreciated, and unwelcome. The real official designation of the Doukhobors is "The Christian Community of the Universal Brotherhood," and is based on Christ's command to love all men. They believe in abstention from systems of violence, indifference to personal fate; a life of purity; love for their persecutors, and willingness to suffer for the good of mankind, but not as law breakers. The name "Doukhobor" was originally given them in derision; the word means "spirit wrestler," and was intended to ridicule them. But the Doukhobors were quick to consider that it represented their idea of wrestling by aid of the Holy Spirit and not with carnal weapons.

Ordinarily the Doukhobors are quiet, simple folk, but periodically their religious fervor reaches higher and higher in temperature. The quick red blood of the sturdy peasants of Russia courses faster and faster in their veins. Everything is forgotten. They are drilled to the commonplaces of life. They become the creatures of their imaginations alone. Then the climax is reached. "Let us march, march, march!" shouts one frenzied soul. "Yes!" cries another, and another and a third, and more and more. The excitement is tremendous. They cast reason, as well as clothes, to the four winds of heaven. Off they start on one of their marches, no matter the heat, no matter the cold—naked, every one.

On the march they give no thought of the morrow, nor of the day, nor of the present, nor of self, man or beast. Despite the bitter biting winds of the high prairie lands in the winter weather while the thermometer is ten, twenty, thirty degrees below zero, with thoughts as pure as that of the child just born, they mingle together without consideration of sex, age, condition, or class; without a single stitch of clothing covering their persons, arm in arm, in an apparently inextinguishable, indissoluble company; with nothing touching their persons except the snow, they tramp on, the icy, blast-laden atmosphere surrounding them, they march, singing and happy and joyful, going hither and thither, east or west, north or south with no fixed direction, marching in circles, zigzagging, then in tangents, with no thought of where they are, of where they are going, or what will become of them other than "We want to see Jesus!" Perhaps you think you might laugh at the sight of a Doukhobor march in the snow? It is more likely to make you cry!

The origin of this strange doctrine of the Doukhobors dates back for centuries, but the first real organization of the sect took place about 153 years ago. As time wore on, two branches were formed, one submitting to the government and temporizing upon such matters as submitting to military duty and eating meat, while the other rigidly adhered to the faith of the fathers and held together, despite cruelties almost unsurpassed in history. They kept fast to their three cardinal principles—vegetarianism, communism, and internalism—and finally the Russian government allowed them to migrate to Canada ten years ago.

They are there now, nearly 10,000 of them. They are not animals or degenerates. They are not paupers or profane. They are not drunkards or law-breakers. But some of them are fanatics.—Exchange.

### IN STOCK.

There is a proprietor of a shop in New Haven, a man of most excitable temperament, who is forever scolding his clerks for their indifference in the matter of possible sales.

One day, hearing a clerk say to a customer, "No, we have not had any for a long time," the proprietor, unable to countenance such an admission, began to work himself into the usual rage. Fixing a glassy eye on his clerk, he said to the customer:

"We have plenty in reserve, ma'am, plenty downstairs."

Whereupon the customer looked dazed; and then, to the amazement of the proprietor, burst into hysterical laughter and quit the shop.

"What did she say to you?" demanded the proprietor of the clerk.

"We haven't had any rain lately."—Harper's Weekly.

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One of the big Department Stores in town decided to discontinue their Sewing Machine Department and accepted our bid for their entire stock of high-grade Demorest Machines. These Machines come to us at a fraction of their usual cost, and we are taking the opportunity to offer you the greatest Sewing Machine bargains ever offered in this city or elsewhere. The stock is made up of standard, high-grade Machines—machines we can recommend and guarantee. All new models—all in perfect condition. You can select the machine you like at the bargain price and arrange to pay for it 50 cents a week. Don't miss this opportunity. See the display of Sewing Machines on our first floor, and have our expert demonstrate the different models. There are 27 different styles priced up from \$13.75.

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This \$29.75  
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A Machine exactly like cut except that it has three drawers; constructed on the lock-stitch principle; hardened steel bearings; double feed; self-threading shuttle; automatic bobbin-winder. The woodwork is of special design, and the whole machine is complete in every detail. It is a machine that is sold regularly for \$29.75. Our special sale price, on easy terms....



This \$75 Sewing  
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When not in use this machine has the appearance of a handsome oak cabinet. It possesses all the merits and all the equipment known to modern sewing machine construction. Regular price, \$75.00. Special sale price, \$35.

This \$48.50  
Sewing Machine \$23.75

A modern, drop-head Sewing Machine, exactly like cut; lockstitch construction; has high-arm; automatic take-up; double feed; self-threading shuttle; perfect tension. A machine that's designed and equipped to do perfect work. Regular price, \$48.50. Sale price.....

This \$55.00 Drop-Head  
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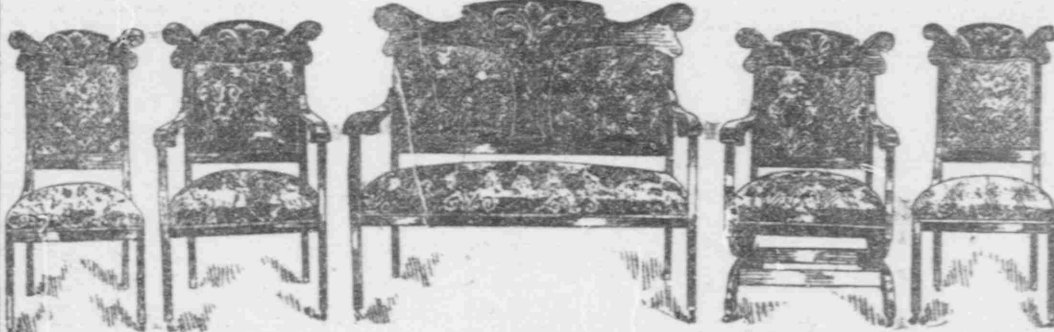
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This Mattress is made with two layers of elastic felt on top, two on the bottom, and two at each end—between which is a filling of American fiber, the nearest thing to and the best substitute for real hair. A genuine \$10 value. Our special introductory price.....

We've Capped the Climax of Value Giving in Offering  
This Handsome \$45 Five-Piece Parlor Suite for \$28



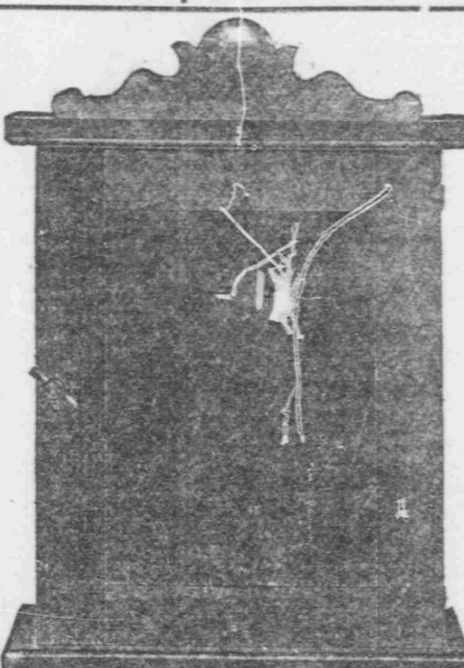
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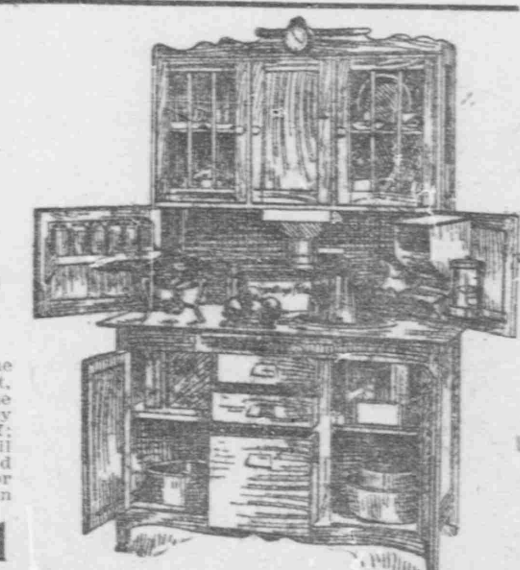
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